

25. The method of claim 21, wherein (i) the linkage assembly includes a rear tilt lever and a front tilt link and (ii) the boom has a first longitudinally extending side wall and a second longitudinally extending side wall, further comprising:

coupling the rear tilt lever and the front tilt link to the boom so that the rear tilt lever and the front tilt link are interposed the first longitudinally extending side wall and the second longitudinally extending side wall.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20-25 are included in this application. By this amendment, Claims 21-25 have been amended. A prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 21-22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton (5769596) in view of Wiechman (6099236). Further, Claims 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton (5769596) in view of Kovacs (5678979). Applicants have amended Claims 21-25 to clearly distinguish the claims from the prior art.

In particular, Claims 21-25 now recite that the lift arm being utilized has a "box boom" configuration. Burton, Wiechman and Kovacs all utilize a lift arm with a "slab type" configuration and do NOT use a box boom configuration. As shown in Figs. 7-9 of Applicants' invention and described on Page 13, lines 3-26, the box boom configuration is typically stiffer and stronger than a lift arm utilizing spaced slab arms. Therefore, there is an advantage to utilizing such a boom structure. None of the prior art references teach or suggest an ability to view the pin of the cylinder from the cab of a work machine utilizing a lift arm having a box boom configuration. Because all claim limitations must be considered, and none of the prior art references teach or suggest utilization of a box boom configuration, Independent Claim 21 should be allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that

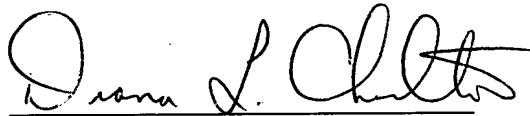
Claim 21 is in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claim 21.

Further, Claims 22-25 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 21 and include additional limitations therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-25 are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 22-25.

The remaining cited references have been reviewed and it is believed that they are of no significance to the claims in issue.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20-25 are fully in condition for allowance, and the passing on to issuance of the instant application is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana L. Charlton", written over a horizontal line.

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Marked Up Copy of Amendments pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121

Title: METHOD OF VERIFYING COUPLING OF AN IMPLEMENT TO A WORK MACHINE

Application No. 09/016,739

Attorney Docket No. 99-679

Claims

21. (Amended) A method of verifying proper coupling of an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an operator who is located in a cab of a work machine, with (i) the work machine including the implement assembly, the lift arm assembly, and a linkage assembly mechanically coupled to the implement assembly (ii) the implement assembly including a hinge plate, (iii) the hinge plate having a first coupling aperture extending therethrough, (iv) the lift arm assembly having a lift arm and a cylinder, and (v) the cylinder being secured to the lift arm, comprising the steps of:

utilizing a lift arm with a box boom configuration;

actuating the cylinder so as to move a pin from a first pin position to a second pin position, wherein (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first pin position, and (ii) the pin extends through the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second pin position; and

viewing the pin when the pin is located in the second pin position by the operator from a position within the cab, wherein the view of the pin by the operator from the position within the cab is unobstructed by the linkage assembly.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the linkage assembly includes a front tilt lever coupled to the implement assembly, further comprising:

positioning the front tilt lever in substantial alignment with a longitudinal center line of the [lift arm] boom.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the linkage assembly includes a rear tilt lever coupled to the [lift arm] boom, further comprising:

positioning the rear tilt lever in substantial alignment with the longitudinal center line of the [lift arm] boom.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein (i) the linkage assembly includes a front tilt lever and (ii) the implement assembly includes an implement coupler having a first outside support plate and a second outside support plate, further comprising:

coupling the front tilt lever to the implement coupler so that the front tilt lever is interposed the first outside support plate and the second outside support plate.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein (i) the linkage assembly includes a rear tilt lever and a front tilt link and (ii) the [lift arm] boom has a first longitudinally extending side wall and a second longitudinally extending side wall, further comprising:

coupling the rear tilt lever and the front tilt link to the [lift arm] boom so that the rear tilt lever and the front tilt link are interposed the first longitudinally extending side wall and the second longitudinally extending side wall.